Statement

Details of latest treatment of AIDS and HIV positive cases

As soon as a case is detected to be HIV positive the treatment can be started depending on the clinical presentation of the case. The treatment of opportunistic infection has to be done as and when they occur. The treatment can be started with anti-retroviral drugs. There are two groups of anti-retroviral drugs approved by FDA (USA).

(I) Reverse Transcriptase inhibitor

These group of drugs stop the replication of viruses by acting on reverse transcriptase enzyme. These drugs are :

(a) AZT-Azidothymidine

(b) DDI-(Di-iodoionosine-Lamivudine)

(c) DDC (Di-iodoionosine-Stanvudine)

(II) Protease inibitors

These are the group of drugs which inhibit protease enzyme and there by stop the formation of new virions of HIV. The drugs are:

(i) Saquinovir

(ii) Indinavir

(iii) Ritonavir

To start with only AZT (Azidothymidine) was used but it was detected that use of such drugs alone will produce resistant strains of HIV, so combination therapy has been started in Western developed countries which was more effective. The other advantages of the combination therapy is that it has got less of side effects and does not produce resistant strain. In late 1996, the protease inhibitor were discovered and early trials showed that combination of reverse transcriptase inhibitor with protease inhibitor were producing very good results in terms of reduction of viral load. So, it has came into conclusion that early attack on virus with combination of this anti-retrovirals is the more effective treatment for prolonging the life of HIV positive/AIDS cases.

But the cost of such treatment is very high and the infrastructure facilities for example estimation of viral load and PCR are requested for monitoring the progress of treatment of these patients.

Setting up of Colleges

2368. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for a moratorium on setting up of Colleges for general education with conventional subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been gradual deterioration in standard of higher education; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no concrete evidence to substantiate this. In pursuance of National Policy on Education, the Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have been taking appropriate steps from time to time to maintain and upgrade the standard of higher education in the country. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows :-

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986. Opportunities provided.
- for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.